



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office**

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------

09/231,114 01/14/99 FUNAHASHI

H 102580

EXAMINER

TM02/0928

OLIFF & BERRIDGE
P O BOX 19928
ALEXANDRIA VA 22320

KANG, P	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

2152
DATE MAILED:

09/28/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/231,114

Applicant(s)

FUNAHASHI

Examiner

Paul H Kang

Art Unit

2152

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 February 1999.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Art Unit: 2152

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wolff, US Pat. No. 6,209,048 B1 in view of Danknick et al., US Pat. No. 6,021,429.

3. As to claims 1, 3, 8, 11, 15, 16, and 17, 18, Wolff teaches the invention substantially as claimed. Wolff teaches a network system comprising a plurality of terminals interconnected via a network; and a controller controlling the terminals via the network, the controller including a selecting means for selecting one of at least two terminals, a requesting means for requesting the transmitting means of the terminal selected by the selecting means to transmit to the controller the information on...the interconnected terminal, and a switching means for switching from the selected terminal to the other or another of the at least two terminals (Wolff, col. 8, line 52 – col. 10, line 32).

However, Wolff does not explicitly teach at least two of the terminals each including an information obtaining means for obtaining information on the other terminals therefrom, and a transmitting means for transmitting to the controller together with information on the each terminal the information obtained about the other terminals by the information obtaining means. In the same field of endeavor, Danknick teaches a method and apparatus for communicating with a network peripheral and which maintains a list of device information (Danknick, col. 1, line 42 – col. 3, line 63 and col. 9, line 7 – col. 11, line 35). It would have been obvious to one having

ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated the multiple device information obtaining means as taught by Danknick into the system of Wolff for the purpose of efficiently obtaining network device information.

4. As to claims 2 and 12, Wolff-Danknick teach the system wherein the information on each of the other terminals includes link information for identifying the each terminal on the network (Danknick, col. 1, line 42 – col. 3, line 63).

5. As to claims 4 and 19, Wolff-Danknick teach the system further comprising an interface interconnecting one terminal and the network; the controller further including an interface information obtaining means for obtaining information on the interface therefrom when the one terminal transmits the information on all the terminals to the controller (Danknick, col. 1, line 42 – col. 3, line 63 and col. 9, line 7 – col. 11, line 35).

6. As to claims 5 and 20, Wolff-Danknick teach a setting changing means for changing the setting or settings of the terminal transmitting the information to the controller, or of the interface (Wolff, col. 8, line 52 – col. 10, line 32).

7. As to claims 6, 9 and 13, Wolff-Danknick teach a memory for storing the information on all the terminals (Danknick, col. 1, line 42 – col. 3, line 63 and col. 9, line 7 – col. 11, line 35).

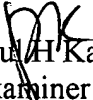
Art Unit: 2152

8. As to claims 7, 10, 14 and 21, Wolff-Danknick teach a system wherein the interconnected terminals is a printer or a scanner (Danknick, col. 1, line 42 – col. 3, line 63 and col. 9, line 7 – col. 11, line 35).

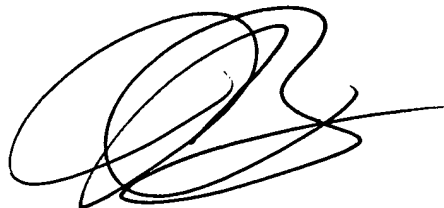
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul H Kang whose telephone number is (703) 308-6123. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 hour flex. First Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Rinehart can be reached on (703) 305-4815. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-9731 for regular communications and (703) 305-3900 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.


Paul H Kang
Examiner
Art Unit 2152

September 26, 2001



MARK H. RINEHART
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100